

Department of Justice

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WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR OBTAINING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FRAUDULENTLY

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Lisa Coleman, 31, of Tonawanda, New York, who was convicted of obtaining controlled substances by fraud, was sentenced by Chief District Judge William M. Skretny to one year in prison.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who handled the case, the defendant presented fraudulent prescriptions at three different pharmacies in Niagara Falls, Amherst and Hamburg, New York in August and September 2010. In each case, Coleman called the pharmacy and posed as a medical official to authorize the prescriptions. The defendant later picked up the medication from the various pharmacies.

“The abuse of prescription medicines is of significant concern to the health care and law enforcement communities, as well as to the general public,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. For this reason, this Office will fully prosecute all who engage in the trafficking of these substances which, while created to do good, may end up causing long term harm to the recipients.”

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Dale Kasprzyk and detectives from the Hamburg Police Department, under the direction of Chief Michael Williams.

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